



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

**Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Heather Bond Somers and Harry A. Watson**

**Tuesday, April 15, 2014**

**7:30 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### **I. ROLL CALL**

*The meeting was called to order at 7:39 p.m. by Mayor Schmidt.*

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Somers

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.*

#### **II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Kathleen Armstrong.*

#### **III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS**

*None.*

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

##### **2014-0075 Request for Financial Incentive - LBI, Inc.**

##### **Heard at Public Hearing**

*Mayor Schmidt called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m.*

*The Notice of Public Hearing pursuant to a resolution passed by the Town Council was read by the Town Clerk.*

*Economic Development Specialist Kristin Clarke noted that LBI, Inc., located at 973 North Road, will be constructing two new warehouse buildings as a result of the receipt of a \$27 million contract from the Department of Defense. The Town's incentive program would abate the additional assessed value for this new construction. The abatement percentage would decrease over a five-year period, and at the end of that time the full assessed value of the property would be taxable. Ms. Clarke noted that LBI, Inc. is also pursuing a State Urban Projects incentive.*

*Peter Legnos, 256 West Shore Avenue, owner of LBI, Inc., stated that this incentive will help his business grow. LBI, Inc. develops unmanned technology for the Navy and has an agreement with Stamford University to collaborate on its research. Mr. Legnos stated that an additional 25 employees will be hired.*

*The Town Manager suggested waiting until after Mr. Legnos hears from the State about its Urban Projects Program before placing this item on a Committee of the Whole Agenda.*

*There being no further comments, Mayor Schmidt closed the Public Hearing at 7:55 p.m.*

#### **IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*Kathleen Armstrong, 84 Route 27, Mystic, received a zoning violation for her three-family home*

*and has tried to resolve the issue with the Planning Department and the Town Attorney for over three years. She requested assistance from the Council to resolve this issue.*

**V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*The Town Manager noted that the history of this particular problem is complicated and goes back to the early 1990's. He believes that the issue is fire safety and noted that there is also a business located in the building. Mr. Oefinger thought that the issue had been resolved, but will look into it and report back to the Council.*

**VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**a. Approval of Minutes**

**2014-0117 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of April 1, 2014 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**b. Administrative Items**

**2014-0105 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Groton Utilities - \$93.38 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$11.55 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Anne-Marie Quagliaroli - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Mystic Photography Group - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
Cardinal Honda - \$250.00 - Veterans Memorial Park Fund  
Mystic Community Bikes - \$750 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Phil Butta - \$30.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Jean Cormack - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Sharon Hollay - \$500 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Emily Nelson - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Jeff Rozycki - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Aimee F. Allaire - \$4.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Marcy Casey - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Sandra Chapman - \$9.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Carl Conrad - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Chinwe Erike - \$40.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
James Eskra - \$40.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Larry Grundy - \$15.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Elizabeth Hogan - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Lauren Huck - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Arnold Jordan, Sr. - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Pride Kelleles - \$6.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Heather King - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Beverly Lavalley - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Amy Matteson - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Emily Nelson - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Katherine Nelson - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Nina Nelson - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Kathryn Roschmann - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Katy M. Stoddard - \$6.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Lawrence Taylor - \$1.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Merin Troutman - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Arianna Turello - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Katherine Wilhelm - \$40.00 Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Jean Yellow Robe - \$2.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Marsha Zimmerman - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Katherine Zod - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Noank Rowing - \$500 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Richard and Jeanne Moorton - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Par Four - \$1,058.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Par Four - \$1,100.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Alan M. Major - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
Mystic Photography Group - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**

**2014-0119 Approving FYE 2015 Budgets**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2014-0120 Computation of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 2015)**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2014-0121 Computation of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove (FYE 2015)**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2014-0122 Computation of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District (FYE 2015)**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2014-0124 FFY 2013 Homeland Security Grant - Memorandum of Understanding**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Watson, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor Frink and Councilor Cerf attended an Economic Development Commission meeting.*

*Councilor Watson, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Frink, and Councilor Cerf attended the Board of Education/Town Council/RTM/City Council Liaison Committee meeting at which Mike Doyle gave an update about Groton's playing fields and plans for the future.*

*Councilor de la Cruz attended a fund-raiser for the Groton Mystic Falcons.*

*Councilor Cerf had a discussion with Todd Brady regarding Streetscape Phase II.*

*Mayor Schmidt announced that an Earth Day celebration will be held April 23, 2014; a poster awards ceremony at the Groton Public Library will be held April 24, 2014; Little League Opening Day will be held April 26, 2014; and Comcast Cares Day will be held April 26, 2014.*

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

*The next regular RTM meeting will be held May 14, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. to accommodate budget sessions. The RTM Annual Budget Meeting will begin April 30, 2014, at the Senior Center.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*The Town Clerk attended a Groton Rotary meeting at which the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce honored IT3 Karl Contreras with its monthly Service Member Award.*

**d. Town Manager**

*The Town Manager noted that all Town offices will be closed on April 18, 2014, for Good Friday. He encouraged Councilors to read about recent energy initiatives in the Weekly Summary.*

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Community Relations - Chairman de la Cruz - No meeting, no report.**

**b. Finance - Chairman Frink - No meeting, no report.**

**c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Flax - No meeting, no report.**

**d. Rules - Chairman Frink - No meeting, no report.**

**e. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Schmidt**

*Mayor Schmidt stated that the Committee of the Whole budget deliberations have concluded and the results of those deliberations will be approved later in tonight's meeting.*

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**2014-0119 Approving FYE 2015 Budgets**

RESOLUTION APPROVING BUDGETS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2014 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2015

RESOLVED, that the budgets for the various funds, hereinafter set forth, are hereby approved and adopted and the amounts on the "Total Appropriation" line are hereby appropriated for the functions specified, and the amounts listed under the heading "Financing Plan" are hereby established as approved budget estimates for the type of revenues specified and include all estimated FYE 2015 cash revenues except FYE 2015 current property taxes which will be estimated for budget purposes by separate resolution when the FYE 2015 tax rate is set, and further that a complete detailed document indicating all function appropriations is hereby made a part of this record and shall be submitted to the Town Clerk for Public Record, for budgets as follows:

General Fund  
Golf Course Fund  
Sewer Operating Fund  
Solid Waste Fund  
Mumford Cove Special Taxing District  
Revaluation Fund  
Recreation & Senior Activities Fund  
Connecticard Fund  
Sewer District Fund  
Capital Reserve Fund  
Fleet Reserve Fund  
Computer Replacement Fund  
Human Services Assistance Fund

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Frink, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2014-0120 Computation of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 2015)**

RESOLUTION COMPUTING A TENTATIVE TAX RATE FOR FYE 2015 TO PAY EXPENSES (APPROPRIATIONS) APPROVED IN THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET AS ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopted on April 15, 2014 a General Fund Budget providing for expenditures, appropriations or expenses totaling \$122,832,341 and estimated cash revenues

exclusive of FYE 2015 current property taxes totaling \$42,157,784, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a tax rate of 20.48 mills is hereby determined as required by Chapter IX of the Groton Town Charter and based on the following computations.

Total General Fund Appropriations per budget approved by Council: \$122,832,341

Less General Fund cash receipts exclusive of FYE 2015 current property taxes: \$42,157,784

Less the amount to be appropriated from the unassigned fund balance: \$2,345,000

Amount to be raised from property taxes: \$78,329,557

Amount computed as follows:

\$78,329,557 divided by the new assessed valuation (before Board of Assessment adjustments) of \$3,898,324,166 divided by 98.1% collection rate multiplied by 1,000 = 20.48 mill rate.

**A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Frink, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2014-0121**

**Computation of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove (FYE 2015)**

RESOLUTION COMPUTING A TENTATIVE TAX RATE FOR FYE 2015 TO PAY EXPENSES (APPROPRIATIONS) APPROVED IN THE MUMFORD COVE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT FUND BUDGET AS ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopted on April 15, 2014 a Mumford Cove District Fund Budget providing for expenditures, appropriations or expenses totaling \$21,038 and estimate cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2015 current property taxes totaling \$108, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a tax rate of 0.304 mills is hereby determined as required by Chapter IX of the Groton Town Charter and based on the following computations:

Total Mumford Cove District Fund appropriations per budget approved by Council: \$21,038

Less estimated amount to be appropriated from unassigned fund balance of June 30, 2014: \$400.

Less Cash Receipts exclusive of current property taxes: \$108

Amount to be raised from property taxes: \$20,530

Amount computed as follows:

\$20,530 divided by net assessed valuation of \$67,564,950 (before Board of Assessment adjustments) divided by 99.8% collection rate multiplied by 1,000 = 0.305 mills.

**A motion was made by Councilor Cerf, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2014-0122**

**Computation of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District (FYE 2015)**

RESOLUTION COMPUTING A TENTATIVE TAX RATE FOR FYE 2015 TO PAY EXPENSES (APPROPRIATIONS) APPROVED IN THE GROTON SEWER DISTRICT FUND BUDGET AS ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopted on April 15, 2014 a Groton Sewer District Fund Budget providing for expenditures, appropriations or expenses totaling \$848,896 and estimated cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2015 current property taxes totaling \$27,941, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a tax rate of 0.25 mills is hereby determined as required by Chapter IX of the Groton Town Charter and based on the following computations:

Total Groton Sewer District Fund appropriations per budget approved by Council: \$848,896

Less estimated amount to be appropriated from unassigned fund balance of June 30, 2014:  
\$225,000.

Less Cash Receipts exclusive of current property taxes: \$27,941

Amount to be raised from property taxes: \$595,955

Amount computed as follows:

\$595,955 divided by net assessed valuation of \$2,451,552,472 (before Board of Assessment adjustments and excludes motor vehicles) divided by the 98.6% collection rate multiplied by 1,000  
= 0.25 mills.

**A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2014-0124**

**FFY 2013 Homeland Security Grant - Memorandum of Understanding**

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR A  
FFY 2013 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (formerly the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security) any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, as Town Manager of the Town of Groton, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Groton to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

**A motion was made by Councilor de la Cruz, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

*The Town Manager clarified that the City of Groton has its own sewer program and is not part of the Town's sewer district.*

*Councilor de la Cruz encouraged the public to support the Groton Mystic Falcons. He noted that 300 youth football players and cheerleaders participate in the program.*

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*

*Lori Watrous, Office Assistant*